



June 14, 2023

Council President and Councilmembers,

Saint Paul is a capital city with vibrant neighborhoods, award-winning parks, and a diverse population with roots from around the world. Our history and cultural richness create a community where you can live, work, play, grow and thrive. We take pride in our strengths and seek opportunities to improve as we endeavor to build a city that works for all of us.

Through the implementation of our Community-First Public Safety framework, we have embarked on a comprehensive, data-driven effort to re-think how we understand public safety and work to create safer outcomes across our city. We know that traffic crashes resulting in death and serious injury are a major public safety issue that threaten the safety of Saint Paul residents and visitors.

Since 2018, we've had more than 16,000 crashes on surface streets—with 60 deaths and 264 serious injuries. We do not forget that these numbers represent real people; they are our friends, family members, neighbors, and co-workers. Their lives and those of their families are forever changed by these tragedies.

Vulnerable users, such as people walking and bicycling, as well as people living in neighborhoods with lower average household incomes, are disproportionately impacted by crashes. Inequity comes in many forms, and these greater impacts to our lower income neighbors—who are more likely to walk and use public transportation—are unacceptable.

The City of Saint Paul is making a pledge to our residents to do better because even one more death on our streets is one more too many. I am committing our city to a goal of zero traffic deaths and serious injuries on surface streets by 2045, with an interim goal of a 50-percent reduction in fatal and serious injury crashes within 10 years. While this is an ambitious goal, I believe it is attainable. We will focus our attention and resources on understanding the problem, working closely across city departments, and collaborating with our partners, including Ramsey County, the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Metro Transit, and Saint Paul Public Schools.

This important work has already begun. Our Public Works Department staff are guiding the ***Safe Streets for All: Transportation Safety Action Plan*** study in 2023. ***Safe Streets for All*** will work with communities and partners to identify high-injury streets and intersections, help to understand the systemic factors that impact crashes, identify projects and strategies to decrease risk, and prioritize future projects to have the best impact on crash reduction. We will use ***Safe Streets for All*** as a launching point for our decision-making across our public infrastructure investments and work with partner agencies to make changes on streets in Saint Paul. We will continue working with communities to gain from their expertise about what transportation safety problems need to be addressed in their neighborhoods.

Our commitment will be broad and enduring. Together we can prevent fatal and serious injury crashes on Saint Paul streets and work to further our vision of a Saint Paul that works for all of us.

Sincerely,

Mayor Melvin Carter
City of Saint Paul, Minnesota